



Northern Great Plains Network

Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

May 2004



Bird Inventories: The bird field work has resumed (this is the final year; field work occurs at the same parks as in the past 2 years). The investigators have been at Devils Tower, and should have done Jewel Cave and Wind Cave the week of May 31, as well as the Mount Rushmore transect. They are scheduled to be at Fort Laramie on June 13-14, Fort Union Trading Post on June 28, and Knife River Indian Villages on June 30-July 1. They will return to Mount Rushmore on June 15 to conduct the specialized searches.

Herp Inventories: The herp work is completed for all parks except the Missouri NRR and the Niobrara NSR. Frog loggers are in the field at the Missouri. Once the flows subside the investigators will visit some of the islands. At the Niobrara the investigators have cover boards in the field and have documented several species with them. They will be returning to that park in early June. Both parks will be visited throughout the summer for road driving surveys, use of turtle traps, and other field work.

Mammal Inventories: Dr. Cheryl Schmidt plans to resume the mammal work in July (i.e., the completion of bat work at Agate Fossil Beds, Mount Rushmore, Scotts Bluff, and Wind Cave). Dr. Phil Sudman will conduct the mammal inventory at the Missouri.

Plant Inventories: Dr. Carolyn Godfread should complete the plant inventory at Fort Union Trading Post this summer. Bonnie Heidel is scheduled to complete the Fort Laramie inventory this summer as well (unfortunately, I do not have their schedules at this time). The stand assessment work (by Forest Service contractors) was recently completed on the Mount Rushmore old growth project; more work will be conducted throughout the summer.

Butterfly Inventories: I'm happy to report that we are conducting butterfly inventories at the eight "small" parks in the Network (available funds limited the project to these eight, plus, these parks are most prone to butterfly extirpations due to landscape fragmentation and other factors). Although they are "inventories", the projects are funded with our monitoring funds (inventory funds are only for vertebrates and vascular plants; however WASO allows a limited use of monitoring funds for collecting baseline information on resources that may be monitored). The butterfly projects are listed below (see also <http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ngpn/index.htm>):

Investigator	Affiliation	Parks	Cost
Dr. Ron Royer	Minot State U.	Fort Union Trading Post NHS Knife River Indian Villages NHS	\$2,500
Gary Marrone	South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks (retired)	Jewel Cave NM Mount Rushmore NMEM	\$2,500
Dr. Randy Lawson	Chadron State U.	Agate Fossil Beds NM Scotts Bluff NM	\$2,500
Dr. Paul Opler	Colorado State U.	Devils Tower NM Fort Laramie NHS	\$,2500

Aquatic Monitoring Field Work: Dr. Nels Troelstrup and Jill Rust are ready to start the aquatic sampling. They are scheduled to be at the Missouri NRR on June 7-9, Niobrara NSR on the 10-12th, Agate Fossil Beds on the 14th, Scotts Bluff on the 15-16th, Fort Laramie on the 17-18th, Wind Cave on the 19th, Jewel Cave on the 21st, Mount Rushmore on the 22nd, Badlands on the 23-24th, Devils Tower on the 25th, Theodore Roosevelt on the 26th and 28th, Fort Union Trading Post on the 29th, and Knife River Indian Villages on the 30th. Additional visits will be made to each park in July and August.

Permits: Please process park research permits as soon as possible. All parks should have received a permit application from Dr. Nels Troelstrup of South Dakota State University for the aquatic study. Those parks with butterfly inventories should have also received permit applications.

Satellite Imagery: I'm happy to report that we selected Quickbird satellite imagery (from DigitalGlobe) for six parks in the Network (Devils Tower, Fort Laramie, Fort Union Trading Post, Jewel Cave, Knife River Indian Villages, and Mount Rushmore). I'm even happier to report that the cost (about \$18k) came in about \$10k less than I had budgeted, and that the resolution (0.6 meter for panchromatic, 2.4 meter for multi-spectral) is better than our specifications. The imagery includes a 3-mile buffer around each park. The imagery will be taken this summer and should be available this fall. Joel Brumm is the point-of-contact for the project.

I&M Coordinator Position: As a result of discussions among the Network Board and the Midwest Regional Office it was decided that the I&M Coordinator's (i.e., Dan Licht) duties will continue to be split at 75:25 between I&M work and Regional Wildlife Biologist work until the Network is fully funded (expected to be in FY06).